GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:266
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2003
SPECIAL PACKAGE TO DROUGHT AFFECTED STATES
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central study team has recently visited various drought affected States to assess the drought situation and losses caused thereby;

(b) if so, the details and findings thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government have received proposals from various States requesting additional assistance to combat drought;

(d) if so, the details thereof including assistance and foodgrains sought by each State for the purpose;

(e) whether the Union Government have given any special package to the affected States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.266 DUE FOR REPLY ON 10TH MARCH, 2003.

(a) to (f): Area Officers from the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation have visited the drought affected States recently and their Reports are under process in accordance with the procedure laid down in the NCCF scheme.

The assistance so far extended to the affected States is summarized as under:-

1. Assisance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund Rs. 1065.95 crores.

2. Allocation of 40.53 lakh MTs. of food-grains for relief employment for the current drought. In addition, 10.12 lakh MTs of food-grains for allocation to Rajasthan during the remaining period upto July, 2003.

3. Release of Rs.1416.98 crores being the Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2002-03. Further, Rs.44.93 crores being 25% of the Central share of CRF for the next financial year for Rajasthan has been released in advance in February, 2003.

4. Decision of free transporation of fodder and water by Rail, wherever required.

5. Scheme of assistance to NGOs for running of Gaushalas/Cattle camps with an outlay of Rs.50.00 crores (Rs.25.00 crores each from NCCF and Prime Minister`s National Relief Fund).

The Task Force on drought has also permitted allocation of food-grains for relief employment in Rajasthan ensuring provision of employment to one willing individual from each rural house-hold in 74 worst affected Blocks of the State and for all Below Poverty Line (BPL) and a majority of non-BPL rural house-holds in other Blocks of the State 10 days every month. The State has also been provided with 30,000 MTs. of cattle grade food-grains.

The following additional assistance requirements were projected to the Area Officers:-

State	Additional requirements projected Food-grains (Lakh MTs.)	Financial assistance (Rs. In crores)
Andhra Pradesh	19.00	2373.44
Chhattisgarh	5.00	
Maharashtra	0.50	539.25
Orissa	10.72	1676.58

Rajasthan	42.25	4160.67
Tamil Nadu	9.00	2027.53
Uttar Pradesh		1128.00

Further, Gujarat Government has submitted a Memorandum for assistance of Rs.895.34 crores from the NCCF.